



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 03/08/2011**

Approved by the Arlington School Committee April 12, 2011

The Arlington School Committee  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 8, 2011  
7:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Joseph Curro, Chair, Ms. Leba Heigham, Vice Chair, Ms. Cindy Starks, Secretary, Mr. Thielman, Mr. Joseph Curran, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe and Mr. Judson Pierce.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Wallis Raemer, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA Representative, Steve Pereira, AAA Representative, Student Representatives: Ms. Maggie Griesmer Student Representative and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent:

Mr. Mark Ryder Director of Special Education

Dr. Raemer entered the meeting at 7:40 p.m.  
Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 8:17 p.m. and returned at 8:26 p.m.  
Ms. Griesmer exited the meeting at 8:21 p.m. and returned at 8:24 p.m.  
Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 8:35 p.m. and returned at 8:40 p.m.  
Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 8:55 p.m. and returned at 9:08 p.m.  
Ms. Griesmer exited the meeting at 9:14 p.m.  
Mr. Steve Pereira exited the meeting at 9:45 p.m.  
Mr. Curran exited the meeting at 10:26 p.m.

Mr. Curro opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

### Reflection, Remembrance and Recognition

Mr. Curro reflected on the upcoming St. Patrick's Day and remembered Ms. Helen Budd former Arlington Public Schools Kindergarten Teacher and had a brief moment of silence in her honor. Mr. Curro welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Mr. Curro welcomed Athletic Director Ted Dever and recognized student athletes senior Sean Fagan and junior Rebecca Robinson with Certificates of Achievement.

Public Participation (Per File BEDH, Arlington School Committee Policy Manual)

Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material.

Issues requiring extensive discussion may be deferred to a future meeting with an

scheduled agenda item.

All remarks will be addressed through the chairperson of the meeting.

Mr. Jim Pieroni was concerned with the budget numbers not adding up; budget concerns and said Arlington's user fees are higher than expected.

Mr. Dan Sullivan read the open letter dated March 5, 2011 from Lori Ribeiro to the Members of the School Committee.

Mr. Bob Bartholomew expressed his sincere condolences to the family of Darren McKenzie. Mr. Bartholomew congratulated Sean Fagan and Rebecca Robinson and all the athletes who have participated in over 300 sporting events this year representing the Town of Arlington and Arlington Public Schools.

Mr. James Dolan asked Ms. Johnson if the School Committee has an answer to the Emerson decision related to user fees vs. tax.

Mr. Glenn Fratto, Scituate Street resident and former Arlington High School athlete expressed the value of athletics for students.

Mr. Tom Jantz, student of Arlington High School completed reading the open letter that Mr. Sullivan starting reading from Ms. Lori Ribeiro and questioned the NEASC accreditation requirements around the cost of athletics and having no Media Library Specialist at the high school.

#### Athletic Advisory Subcommittee

Dr. Kathleen Bodie congratulated the Athletic Advisory Subcommittee on the results of their discussions and with the report they presented dated March 1, 2011. Dr. Bodie is comfortable with recommending the family cap for athletics from \$1,600 to \$1,250.

**Mr. Thielman moved to accept Superintendent Bodie's recommendation that the family cap for Athletics fees be reduced to \$1,250 from \$1,600 for 2010-2011 school year, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Mr. Stephen Harrington presented the Athletic Advisory Committee Report to the School Committee, dated March 1, 2011.

**Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to receive the Athletic Advisory Committee Report, dated March 1, 2011, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

#### Technology Plan

Dr. Wallis Raemer presented the Arlington Public Schools Technology Plan for 2011-2014. Members from the Committee joined by David Good, Peter Kidwell, Josh Lobel and Hedrick Elliseter at the table discussing the plan.

**Ms. Heigham moved to accept to receive the Arlington Public Schools Technology Plan 2011-2014, seconded by Mr. Curran.**

**Voted: 7-0**

#### Recess 9:45 -9:55

#### Approval of Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

Mr. Curro thanked Dr. Bodie and Ms. Johnson for answering questions that were brought up at the Special School Committee meeting on March 1, 2011 around the budget.

**Dr. Allison-Ampe moved that the School Committee authorize the Budget Subcommittee and/or the Chair of the Budget Subcommittee to work with the Finance Committee to create and/or designate a Special Education Reserve Fund and clarify the conditions under which its funds would be utilized with work to begin in April and to be completed by June 30, 2011, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

After the committee discussed the motion it was suggested that Dr. Allison-Ampe withdraw the motion.

**Dr. Allison-Ampe withdrew her motion.**

**Dr. Allison-Ampe moved the School Committee authorize the Budget Subcommittee and/or the Chair of the Budget Subcommittee to work with the Finance Committee to create and/or designate a Special Education Reserve Fund and clarify the conditions under which its funds would be utilized, with work to begin and to be completed by June 30, 2011, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-1, Mr. Thielman voting No**

**Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to change the following: Athletic gate receipts: increase assumption of receipts to \$30,000 and to assign all receipts to the reduction of athletic fees, decreasing that amount to \$427,000, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

After discussion, **Dr. Allison-Ampe withdrew the motion** and made the following motion:

**Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to change the following: Athletic gate receipts: increase assumption of receipts to \$30,000 and to assign all receipts to the reduction of athletic fees, decreasing that amount to \$427,000, and Circuit Breaker: increase assumption of reimbursement rate to 50%, giving an additional \$193,000 in revenue, allocated as follows: \$28,000 to further athletic fee reduction, decreasing that amount to \$399,000 and \$165,000 to a designated Special Education Reserve fund, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

Mr. Thielman asked Dr. Bodie and Ms. Johnson if they were comfortable with the motion and both Superintendent Bodie and Chief Financial Officer Johnson said they were.

**Mr. Thielman moved to accept the Revised FY 12 Superintendent Proposed Budget Funding Summary Report, seconded by Mr. Pierce.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 1 high school for \$6,427,078, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to amend the recommendation to increase proposed budget for Cost Center 1 High School by \$65,000 and reduce proposed budget for Cost Center 45 fuel by \$65,000, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Motion as amended**

**Voted: 6-0**

Mr. Skidmore said he would use the money to hire a Library Media Specialist at the high school.

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 3, Ottoson in the amount of \$4,646,772, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe.**

**Ms. Starks moved to amend the recommendation to reduce the appropriation for proposed budget for Cost Center number 86 Sped SLC B to \$766,069 and to reduce the appropriation for proposed budget for Cost Center number 87 and to increase the appropriation for proposed budget for Cost Center 3 Ottoson, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted as amended: 3-3 Motion fails**

**Original motion**

**Voted: 4-2, Ms. Starks and Ms. Heigham voting No**

Ms. Starks thanked Mr. Ryder for providing the data she requested but would prefer to add teachers at the middle school to maintain the cluster model.

Committee members and administration were not comfortable with the recommendation because it is difficult to predict Special Education needs for students and this would create risk.

**Ms. Starks moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 6 Bishop in the amount of \$1,674,915, seconded by Mr.**

**Thielman.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the proposed budget Cost Center 9 Brackett in the amount of \$1,747,470, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 12 Dallin in the amount of \$1,726,877, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 15 Hardy in the amount of \$ 1,440,322, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 18 Pierce in the amount of \$ 1,590,058, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 21 Stratton in the amount of \$1,410,066, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 24 Thompson in the amount of \$1,042,453, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Starks moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 25 Early Childhood in the amount of \$ 649,199, seconded Ms. Heigham.**  
**Voted 6-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 29 Elementary System wide in the amount of \$1,206,973, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 30 English in the amount of \$93,174, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 33 ELL in the amount of \$124,865, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 36 Health and Wellness in the amount of \$399,672, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 39 Math in the amount of \$47,805, seconded by Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 42 Science in the amount of \$87,226, seconded Ms. Starks.**  
**Voted: 6-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 45 Sped in the amount of \$8,750,609, seconded by Mr. Curro.**  
**Voted: 5-1 Ms. Starks voted No**

**Ms. Starks moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 48 Social Studies in the amount of \$136,542, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 49 System wide Accounts in the amount of \$805,479 seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 51 World Language in the amount of \$6,033, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 54 Visual and Performing Arts in the amount of \$46,188, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Starks moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 57 School Committee in the amount of \$86,309, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 60 Superintendent in the amount of \$956,006, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Starks moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 63 Administration for Curriculum and Personnel in the amount of \$ 268,633, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Starks moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 66 Business Office in the amount of \$ 495,107. Seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Starks moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 69 Payroll in the amount of \$ 278,868, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Starks moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 72 Food Service in the amount of \$ 20,000, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to approve proposed budget for Cost Center 75 Facilities by reducing the proposed budget \$3,424,823 by \$100,000 allocated for fuel be reallocated as follows: \$35,000 to designated Special Education 'reserve Fund and move \$65,000 to Proposed budget for Cost Center 1 High School to add back a teacher, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Starks moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 78 Information Technology in the amount of \$ 468,912, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Ms. Starks moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 81 Transportation in the amount of \$ 1,153,629, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 85 SPED SLC A in the amount of \$ 1,048,989 seconded Dr. Allison-Ampe.**

**Voted: 4-2 Ms. Starks and Ms. Heigham voted No**

**Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 86-SPED SLC B in the amount of \$ 919,241, seconded by Mr. Curro.**

**Voted: 4-2 Ms. Starks and Ms. Heigham voted No**

**Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to approve the proposed budget for Cost Center 87-SPED SLC C in the amount of \$ 495,628, seconded by Mr. Pierce.**

**Voted: 5-1 Ms. Starks voted No**

**Mr. Thielman moved to direct the Chief Financial Officer to establish a new proposed budget for Cost Center to retain the Special Education Reserves in the amount of \$200,000, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-0**

Ms. Heigham stressed the importance of the Chief Financial Officer's duty to report to the School Committee members before any changes to a proposed budget for Cost Center can occur.

Dr. Bodie suggested to the School Committee members voting the bottom line budget number tonight

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve FY 12 Budget in the amount of \$43,869,822, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted 5-1, Ms. Starks voting No.**

**Mr. Pierce moved the 11 o'clock rule to 11:30 p.m., seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-0**

Ms. Johnson said the FY 12 proposed budget was \$43,676,822 and by adding \$193,000 the amount would total the bottom line of \$43,869,822.

The budget will be presented to the Finance Committee on Wednesday, March 16, 2011

At 7:45 p.m.

**Mr. Thielman moved to direct the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee to reevaluate Policy DBJ in light with new format and meet with the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer to proceed further, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-0**

#### Policies and Procedures

**Mr. Pierce moved to adopt the revisions of Policies CBI and CBI-E, Evaluation of the Superintendent and Superintendent Evaluation, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 1-4-1, Mr. Pierce Yes, Ms. Starks Abstained**

Discussion on the motion

**Ms. Heigham moved the 11 o'clock rule to 11:45 p.m., seconded by Mr. Thielman.**

**Voted: 6-0**

**Mr. Thielman moved to suspend policy CBI Superintendent Evaluation, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Roll Call: Mr. Pierce Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, and Mr. Curro Yes**

**Voted: 6-0**

Consent Agenda - All items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

- Approval of Warrant # 11105 Total Warrant Amount \$ 567,536.41 dated January 25, 2011
- Approval of Warrant # 11109 Total Warrant Amount \$ 625,005.95 dated February 8, 2011
- Approval of Warrant # 11116 Total Warrant Amount \$ 701,346.09 dated February 22, 2011

**Ms. Heigham moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Voted: 6-0**

Secretary's Report

Mr. Curro skipped the Secretary Report due to the late hour.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie thanked everyone involved with the high school flood.

Roundtable

Dr. Ampe asked Dr. Bodie if the MSBA request that was included in our packet to implement a redistricting plan by June 30, 2011 would be completed and Dr. Bodie replied that it would get done.

Executive Session

**Ms. Heigham moved to enter Executive Session at 11:35 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation when an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the committee and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, or to conduct collect bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to exit only for adjournment, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

**Roll Call: Mr. Pierce Yes, Dr. Allison-Ampe Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, Mr. Curro Yes**

**Voted: 6-0**

Adjournment

**Mr. Thielman moved to adjournment at 11:44 p.m. seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 6-0**

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee/cs/dfj/jc